



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held October 23, 2007, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following revised statement:

“Two tragic events in recent years have reminded all of us of the importance of planning ahead for the worst-case disaster scenario: the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, and Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Board of Supervisors asked the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management to review the County Operational Area’s readiness to respond to a major catastrophe such as the one suffered in the Gulf Coast. The report prepared in response to that inquiry found that the County was, in many ways, among the most prepared areas in the United States. However, it identified a lack of coordinated emergency management plans for the County’s unincorporated communities as a major gap that must be closed if the County is to properly respond to a large-scale disaster such as a major wild fire or earthquake.

“Long before Katrina, in April of 2000, the Chief Administrative Officer’s Office of Unincorporated Area Services began to implement the County’s Strategic Planning for Municipal Services for Unincorporated Areas. Topanga Canyon was chosen as the pilot location for Action Plan F, Emergency Management Planning for Unincorporated Areas, because this community of over 10,000 people is uniquely vulnerable to a fast-moving wildfire, an earthquake, floods, and landslides.

“Since that time, volunteer members of the community and representatives of numerous County and other governmental agencies have worked side by side on a joint task force to: 1) develop a comprehensive, Topanga-specific emergency management plan that addresses prevention, response and recovery in the Topanga Disaster Survival Guide; and, 2) facilitate improved coordination and communication between governmental agencies and the community as well as faster, more effective response by the Departments of Fire, Sheriff, Public Works and other critical first responders.

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“For the past four years, this task force has simultaneously worked to develop a planning guide that includes a number of best management practices laying out how the County and individual unincorporated communities can partner together to design more effective disaster preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery community-specific plans. Emergency Management in Unincorporated Areas: A Planning Guide (Planning Guide), was developed based on this County-community collaboration. The Planning Guide includes: 1) process-oriented best management practices; 2) specific tools to improve coordination between first-responders and between County departments, State agencies, and other levels of government; and, 3) internal operational plans for individual County Departments. The Planning Guide can be utilized to develop community-specific emergency response, prevention and recovery plans in unincorporated areas Countywide and was approved by the Emergency Management Council at its August 9, 2006 meeting.

“Together with the County’s other disaster planning efforts, the tools and best management practices developed by the Topanga Emergency Management Planning pilot project form a critical foundation upon which the County should continue to work at closing the emergency preparedness gap in its unincorporated areas.”

Therefore, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a motion that the Board take the following actions:

1. Adopt the attached Emergency Management in Unincorporated Areas: A Planning Guide for Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Management in unincorporated areas and instruct the Chief Executive Officer to send an adopted, signed copy of the action to the Office of Emergency Management;
2. Direct the Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management in conjunction with the Office of Unincorporated Area Services and the Board offices, to:
 - Coordinate a workgroup minimally comprised of the following departments: Sheriff, Animal Care and Control, Fire, Mental Health, Public Health, Public Social Services and Public Works to identify and develop a priority list of unincorporated areas of which community-specific emergency management plans will be developed that address response, prevention and recovery;

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- Further identify necessary resource requirements, funding options and tasks required to provide the community-specific emergency management plans for the unincorporated areas; and
- Report back to the Board within 90 days.

The following statement was read into the record for Supervisors Antonovich and Molina:

“The Topanga Disaster Survival Guide (Guide) includes useful emergency preparedness information and planning tips for the residents of Topanga Canyon. While the Guide includes some specific information for the residents of Topanga Canyon, a significant portion of it applies to residents throughout the County.”

Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a suggestion that Supervisor Yaroslavsky's motion be amended to also direct the Chief Executive Officer to utilize the Topanga Disaster Survival Guide to develop a Disaster Survival Guide for distribution to the residents of the County's unincorporated communities and provide a progress report in two weeks. Supervisor Yaroslavsky accepted Supervisors Antonovich and Molina's amendment, as revised to remove the report back in two weeks. Supervisor Antonovich and Molina accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky's revision.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, was unanimously carried.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Sheriff
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Director of Animal Care and Control
Director of Mental Health
Director of Public Health
Director of Public Social Services
Director of Public Works
Fire Chief
Administrator, Office of Emergency Management